

**Listing of the Claims:**

The following is a complete listing of all the claims in the application, with an indication of the status of each:

1       1 (Previously Amended). An automated method for setting up a natural  
2       language interface in a Web site comprising the steps of:  
3               defining a hierarchy of topics into which individual documents or  
4       Web pages can be classified;  
5               generating a keyword index for those documents; and  
6               for each topic in the hierarchy, associating a set of n-grams to a  
7       topic in the topic hierarchy, which set of n-grams is distinctive to that topic  
8       and wherein the n-grams maybe sparse or non-sparse n-grams.

1       2 (Previously Amended). The automated method for setting up a natural  
2       language interface in a Web site recited in claim 1, wherein the step of  
3       generating a keyword index comprises the step of extracting sparse n-  
4       grams of keywords for each group of pages in the topic hierarchy.

1       3 (Previously Amended). The automated method for setting up a natural  
2       language interface in a Web site recited in claim 1, further comprising the  
3       step of optionally reviewing and editing the keyword index.

1       4 (Previously Amended). An automated method for setting up a natural  
2       language interface in a Web site comprising the steps of:  
3               automatically inducing a topic hierarchy by examining a structure  
4       of the Web site;  
5               creating n-grams from pages in the Web site that are associated  
6       with a topic in the topic hierarchy wherein the n-grams may be sparse in-  
7       grams or non-sparse n-grams; and  
8               creating rules from the n-grams, wherein each topic has associated

9 rules that are used to decide if a new input document or query references  
10 the topic.

1 5 (Previously Amended). The automated method for setting up a natural  
2 language interface in a Web site recited in claim 4, wherein the step of  
3 creating rules is performed automatically and further comprising the  
4 optional step of manually editing the rules.

1 6 (Previously Added). The automated method for setting up a natural  
2 language interface in a Web site recited in claim 1, further comprising the  
3 step of converting the set of n-grams to classification rules.